



Customer No. 22,852

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Sir:

RESPONSE

In response to the non-final Office Action dated December 16, 2003, for the above-referenced application, the period for response having been extended for two (2) months by the Petition for Extension of Time filed concurrently herewith, Applicants provide the following amendments and remarks.

Amendments to the Specification are included in this paper.

Remarks/Arguments follow the amendment sections of this paper.

Attachments to this amendment include a **Replacement Abstract**.